Malpractices among Employees of Cotton Corporation of India

967. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding malpractices among the employees of Cotton Corporation of India in the sale of cotton seed involving crores of rupees; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to curb malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) While no specific complaint has been received by the Government in the recent past, President, Northern India Small Scale Cotton Factory Association had *inter-alia*, complained about sale of cotton seed at lower rates. This was investigated by Vigilance Officers of the Corporation, but no *prima-facie* case was established. However, the Corporation has streamlined the procedure for the disposal of cotton seed to ensure that such malpractices are avoided.

Aid for Sericulture Development

968. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of aid given for sericulture development in traditional and non-traditional states alongwith the Statewise break up during the last three years, yearwise; and

(b) whether there is any external aid involved if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Statewise allocations for development of sericulture are made by the Planning Commission on the basis of Annual Plan proposals submitted by concerned State Sericulture Departments. However, in order to supplement the efforts of State Sericulture Deptts., Central Silk Board has also been implementing schemes/programmes for Sericulture development under the Central Sector. A statement showing State-wise break up of Central allocations for implementation of these schemes/programmes during the last 3 years is attached as an Annexure [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 50]

(b) Yes, Sir. The following Projects are being implemented with assistance from Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC).

(i) Mulberry Sericulture Development Project in Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh envisaging a total external aid of Rs. 230.93 lakhs.

(ii) Phase II of Inter-State Tasar Project in Orissa & Maharashtra envisaging a total external aid of Rs. 269 lakhs.

Reopening of Completed Tax Assessments of the Indian Express Group of Companies

969. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is reported that following the recent raids on the Indian Express Group of Companies by the Income Tax Authorities the completed tax assessment of the companies have been reopened by order from the assessment year 1972-73 onwards; and

(b) if so, what proceedings have been launched against the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The completed assessments relating to certain assessment years in the cases of three concerns of the Indian Express Group have been reopened by the concerned Assessing officers, under section 147(a) of the Income-tax Act, by issue of notices under section